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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Cameron Kerrigan Squire, Sanders & Dempeey L.L.P. Suite 300 One Marltime Plaza San Francisco, CA 94111	

EXAMINER	
VU, MINDY D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2884	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,454

Applicant(s)

TEZUKA, HIDETAKE

Examiner

Mindy Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12, 15, 16 and 19-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 28 and 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/13/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to Applicant's application filed July 25, 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-9, 12, 15-16 and 19-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Tamakoshi et al. (US 2002/0063226, hereafter Tamakoshi).

3. With respect to independent Claims 1 and 19, Tamakoshi discloses a radiation image photographing system and a method thereof (Fig. 1) comprising a controller 2, a radiation image reading apparatus 1 and a database section which are connected through a network (Paragraph 0027),

the controller 2 comprising:

an operation control information registering section for registering operation control information of the radiation image reading apparatus in the database section, the operation control information including identification information of the controller, an operational order of the radiation image reading apparatus, and at least one of identification information of a photostimulable phosphor sheet and identification information of the radiation image reading apparatus (Paragraph 0024),

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a receiving section for receiving an image which is read out of the photostimulable phosphor sheet by and outputted from the radiation image reading apparatus (Paragraph 0032), and

a display section for displaying the image received by the receiving section thereon (Paragraph 0021),

the database section comprising a storing section for storing the operation control information of the radiation image reading apparatus (Paragraph 0027), and

the radiation image reading apparatus 1 comprising:

an obtaining section for obtaining the operation control information from the database section by using the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet set in the radiation image reading apparatus as a search key (Paragraph 0006), and

an output section for outputting the image read out of the photostimulable phosphor sheet based on the operation control information obtained by the obtaining section to the controller determined by the identification information of the controller included in the operation control information (Paragraph 0007).

With respect to Claims 2 and 20, Tamakoshi discloses the obtaining section of the radiation image reading apparatus obtains the operation control information from the database section by using the identification information of the radiation image reading apparatus as the search key upon a search order of the database section by the

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controller, and makes the radiation image reading apparatus operable based on the operation control information (Paragraph 0040).

With respect to Claims 3-4 and 21-22, Tamakoshi discloses the radiation image reading apparatus further comprises a status information registering section for registering at least one of a progress state of operation, success or failure of the operation, and a reason of failure of the operation as status information in the database section when the radiation image reading apparatus executes the operation based on the operation control information, and the radiation image reading apparatus registers the status information in the database section and gives the controller the search order of the database section (Paragraphs 0121-0129).

With respect to Claims 5 and 23, Tamakoshi discloses the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet includes barcode information attached to at least one of the photostimulable phosphor sheet and a cassette covering the photostimulable phosphor sheet (Paragraph 0062).

With respect to Claims 6 and 24, Tamakoshi discloses the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet is registration turn to the database section by the controller, instead of the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet (Paragraph 0028).

With respect to Claims 7 and 25, Tamakoshi discloses the operation control information includes a reading order of the photostimulable phosphor sheet to the radiation image reading apparatus (Paragraph 0026) and a condition for reading the image from the photostimulable phosphor sheet, the condition including at least one of

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reading resolution, reading sensitivity, output density gradation and a data processing type (Paragraph 0069).

With respect to Claims 8 and 26, Tamakoshi discloses the operation control information includes at least one of a start-up order, a halt order, an order of generating a correction coefficient for a data processing and an order of changing an operational program, to the radiation image reading apparatus (Paragraph 0228).

With respect to Claims 9 and 27, Tamakoshi discloses the status information includes a status indicating that the radiation image reading apparatus already has searched the operation control information as the progress situation of the operation (Paragraph 0151).

With respect to Claim 12, Tamakoshi discloses a plurality of controllers (Paragraph 0021), wherein the database section is incorporated in at least one of the plurality of controllers (Paragraph 0027).

With respect to Claim 15, Tamakoshi discloses the database section is incorporated in the radiation image reading apparatus (Paragraph 0027).

With respect to Claim 16, Tamakoshi discloses the database section is incorporated in an external apparatus other than the controller nor the radiation image reading apparatus (Paragraph 0040).

Allowable Subject Matter

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4. Claims 10-11, 13-14, 17-18 and 28-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not teach or suggest the operation control information registering section can register only operation control information including identification information of a photostimulable phosphor sheet different from the identification information of the photostimulable phosphor sheet included in the operation control information which has already been registered in the database section based on the status information; the obtaining section can obtain operation control information other than the operation control information which already has been searched by the radiation image reading apparatus from the database section based on the status information; and a plurality of database sections exchange and share database information in a predetermined cycle

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mindy Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-8539.


The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mv



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